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Housing Action Council

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Alan R. Gordon
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Date: April 4, 2007

Gregory J. Shmidt 1 Van Wyck St. Croton, NY 10520

Dear Mayor Shmidt:

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that Housing Action Council, Inc. is submitting a proposal to the New York State Affordable Housing Corp. for a \$300,000 grant to continue and expand its comprehensive Home Improvement Program for owner-occupied one to four family residences throughout Westchester County.

Under this program, Housing Action Council, Inc. provides grants to income eligible property owners to make needed repairs to their properties that will enable them to remain in and sustain the longevity of their homes. These repairs include roof and heating system replacement, asbestos and lead-based paint abatement, upgrading electrical and plumbing and energy conservation improvements. Priority is given to correcting code violations, energy efficiency improvements and lead hazard reduction activities. Eligibility is limited to households whose incomes are no greater than 80% of the Westchester County area median income. The current income limit for a family of four is \$77,200.

Housing Action Council, Inc. can provide a grant of up to \$15,000 or 60% of the cost of repairs, whichever is less. Housing Action Council, Inc. works to identify and secure additional sources of funding through loans and other grant programs for household who are unable to afford their portion fo the contribution. Housing Action Council, Inc will coordination with the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority's Assisted Home Performance with Energy Star Program and Lead Safe Westchester to incorporate grants for both energy improvements and lead remediation into eligible homes.

For program participants, Housing Action Council, Inc. conducts a full property inspection which details health and safety issues, prepares scopes of work, works with the homeowner to prioritize repairs, assists the homeowner in obtaining bids from qualified rehabilitation, and counsels the homeowner throughout the entire home improvement process.

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We home that the NYS Affordable Housing Corp. will continue its funding for this needed program. We ask for your support. We also ask you to identify homeowners who may need such assistance and/or help spread the news that the Home Improvement Program is available. Please contact Rosemarie Noonan, Executive Director at 914.332.4144. We welcome letters of support.

Sincerely,

Rosemarie Noonan Executive Director.